

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/603,510

Examiner

Alain L. Bashore

Applicant(s)

BURNS, ARTHUR DALE

Art Unit

1762

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4-18-07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-6, 8-13, 15-20, 22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**ALAIN L. BASHORE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Board Decision***

1. The period under 37 CFR 1.304 for seeking court review of the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences rendered 2-23-07 has expired and no further action has been taken by appellant. The proceedings as to the rejected claims are considered terminated; see 37 CFR 1.197(b).

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-13, 15-20, 22 are allowed as amended after the board decision rendered 2-23-07. Formal drawings are now required.

## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention includes independent claims 1, 9, and 16. Claim 1 recites a computer system for student loan consolidation qualification, claim 9 recites a method of qualifying a student for a student loan consolidation, and claim 16 reciting a computer system for operating a student loan consolidation qualification Internet site.

Tengel et al is considered the closest prior art. Tengel et al teaches a loan qualification system and Internet site. An input module, associated with an Internet site, that presents at least one page to a loan applicant to assist said loan applicant in providing personal and loan information pertaining to a plurality of loans made to said loan applicant.

Tengel et al does not disclose the claimed combination including:

In claim 1:

a qualification module embodied in software in said computer system and associated with said input module, that (a) assesses said personal information to determine a personal qualification of said loan applicant, (b) assesses said student loan information pertaining to said plurality of student loans, and (c) assesses an aggregate student loan debt of said loan applicant to determine a loan qualification of said loan applicant, said qualification module qualifying said loan applicant and informing said loan applicant and a loan consolidator only if said personal qualification and said loan qualification are positive.

In claim 9:

assessing said student loan information pertaining to said plurality of student loans to determine a loan qualification of said loan applicant including assessing an aggregate student loan debt of said loan applicant;

qualifying said loan applicant only if said personal qualification and said loan qualification are positive; and

informing said loan applicant and a loan consolidator if said personal qualification and said loan qualification are positive.

In claim 16

a qualification module embodied in software in said computer system and associated with said input module, that assesses said personal information to determine a personal qualification of said loan applicant and assesses said student loan information pertaining to said plurality of student loans to determine a loan qualification of said loan applicant including assessing an aggregate student loan debt of said loan applicant, said qualification module qualifying said loan applicant and informing said loan applicant and a loan consolidator via a page on said site only if said personal qualification and said loan qualification are positive.

For these reasons claims 1, 9, and 16 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record, and claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10-13, 15, 17-20, and 22 are allowable by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Drawings***

4. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because sheets 1-5 of the drawings filed 2-26-07 are informal in nature. Formal drawings are now required, please submit a complete set of formal drawings. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsperson outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alain L. Bashore whose telephone number is 571-272-6739. The examiner can normally be reached on about 7:30 am to 5:00 pm (Mon. thru Thurs.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on 571-272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alain L. Bashore/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1762